

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

In a distributed amplifier, a pump laser transmits a laser onto the transmission fiber concurrently as the optical signals travel over the fiber. The pump laser generally backward pumps the laser onto the transmission fiber. Other distributed amplifiers have a backward pumping laser and a forward pumping laser. The properties of the transmission fiber act to absorb the pumped laser and generate a gain in the optical signals due to the Raman Effect. The gain range of the distributed amplifier is flexible and depends on the wavelength of the pump laser. The pump laser amplifies wavelengths at one Raman Stokes shift away from the laser wavelength. A first order Raman Stokes shift comprises the wavelengths about 100 nanometer (nm) longer than the pump laser wavelength in glass fiber. For instance, a 1455 nm pump laser wavelength amplifies optical signals having wavelengths around 1550 nm. The gain bandwidth is about 30 nm centered about the 1550 nm wavelength.